

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated March 15, 2006, in which claims 1, 3-4 and 9-13 were rejected. Claim 2 was previously canceled. With this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, claims 5-8 and 14-20 are canceled, and the remaining claims are unchanged.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claim 1 was objected to because of informalities. First, the Office Action suggests that the newly amended recitation (couple the contacts together) is not seen as being supported by the Applicant's elected species (FIG. 1).

The top of page 4 of the Applicant's Specification states that:

As can be seen in FIG. 1, Kelvin connector 100 includes a pair of substantially identical opposing electrical contacts 102 mechanically connected together but electrically insulated from one another by means of an insulator 104 that has a central opening 105.

The above language shows that, in FIG. 1, the only possible interpretation of coupling the contacts together by the insulator is a mechanical coupling of the two contacts. In any event, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the language "mechanically connect the contacts together," which has more literal support in the above-included language of the Specification. Therefore, the objection should be withdrawn.

A further objection to claim 1, at the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action, indicates that it is unclear as to whether or not the battery post is a part of the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize that the claimed Kelvin connector is for use with a battery post. Therefore, the objection should be withdrawn.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-4 and 9-13

were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Crosa, U.S. Patent No. 3,796,124.

Claim 1 includes "a first contact . . . a second contact . . . and an electrical insulator between the first contact and the second contact to mechanically connect the contacts together and to align the surface of the first contact and the surface of the second contact against the surface of such post and thereby form a Kelvin connection to such post, wherein the first contact, the second contact and the insulator form a closed loop that is used to encircle such battery post."

The Office Action suggests, in general, that FIGS. 2, 3 and 6 of Crosa show these limitations. The Crosa invention relates to a system, to be preferably be used in the building art, for clamping a first member to a second member. (See Abstract of Crosa.) The Crosa system includes separate plate members 2 that are used for clamping beam members 18 and 19 (FIG. 6 of Crosa). The separate and independent plates of Crosa are unrelated to the first and second contacts of the claimed invention, which, together with the insulator, form "a closed loop."

Additionally, the Office Action indicates that the beam members 18 and 19 of Crosa constitute an insulator of the type required by claim 1. However, beam members 18 and 19 are linked together by a pair of rods 12 and are held in place with the help of plate members 2 of the Crosa system. Beams 18 and 19 have nothing to do with "an electrical insulator . . . to mechanically connect the contacts together . . . wherein the first contact, the second contact and the insulator form a closed loop that is used to encircle such battery post." Therefore, claim 1 is non-obvious and over Crosa.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is allowable and that the dependent claims are also allowable by virtue of their dependency, either directly or indirectly, from the allowable independent claims. Further, the

dependent claims set forth numerous elements not shown or suggested in the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. Favorable action upon all claims is solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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